

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 657  
By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ms. Jean Dicie of the Leiper's Fork Public Library upon being nominated for the Tennessee Library Association's Frances Neel Cheney Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those citizens who, through their unflagging commitment to excellence in all endeavors, have distinguished themselves in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee stands firmly committed to the education of our children; one catalyst for the enhancement of our students' future academic success is the promotion of reading at an early age, which results in a love for books and the knowledge that abounds from reading; and

WHEREAS, if a love of reading is firmly established during a child's youth, that child will be better prepared for the future: his or her scholastic achievements will increase, meaningful employment will be more readily available, and his or her ability to compete in the ever-growing global economy will be greatly enhanced; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jean Dicie, pioneer of Toddler Time and other reading programs at the Leiper's Fork Public Library in Williamson County, has generated community involvement in the education of our youth by providing the first library programming for the library's youngest patrons and their parents; her sterling leadership is grounded in the sound principle that educational investment is instrumental to the community's well-being and long-term quality of life, and for this reason, she has been nominated for the Tennessee Library Association's Frances Neel Cheney Award; and

WHEREAS, Jean Dicie has encouraged and promoted a love of reading through many avenues, including creating reading opportunities at the local elementary school, conducting

weekly Toddler Times and Pre-school story times, and by carefully building an outstanding collection of reading materials for children at the library; and

WHEREAS, a devoted public servant, Ms. Jean Dicie conducts weekly Toddler Time Programs at Leiper's Fork Public Library for children aged eighteen months to three years, emphasizing parent-child participation; this worthy program engages children in learning nursery rhymes and simple songs and the enjoyment of simple picture books and stories; and

WHEREAS, by participating in the programs created by Ms. Dicie, the children improve their language comprehension and verbal fluency and develop a love of reading in the process; and

WHEREAS, Jean Dicie has shared her passion for children's library service programs as Co-Presenter of a Toddler Time in-service training program at Blue Grass Regional Library and at the 2004 Tennessee Library Association Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, always stressing the importance of reading readiness, this remarkable individual advocates unceasingly for children's freedom to read, without regard to grade or reading level; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her library activities, Ms. Dicie writes a weekly column for the local paper; she has also written book reviews and promotions for the *Leiper's Fork Gazette*, and she was named "Woman of the Decade" by the *Gazette* in 2000 for "leading Leiper's Fork Library into the millennium"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dicie's dedication to excellence and to introducing children to books at an early age, thereby encouraging a lifelong love of reading, is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Jean Dicie of the Leiper's Fork Public Library on being nominated for the Tennessee Library Association's Frances Neel Cheney Award, thank her for her commendable efforts in inspiring children to love books and reading and to make reading fun, and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.